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Roosevelt and Hanna.

Unauthorized Stories Industriously Circulated.

Within the past two weeks all sorts of yarns have been spun by industrious correspondents and political agents in regard to the relations of President Roosevelt and Senator Hanna. The latest example of this sort of literature is the story that the President said he should smoke Mr. Hanna out and make him either fish or cut bait, a saying which would have been most ill-judged and indiscreet if it had come from the President. An emphatic denial followed close on the story, and, moreover, Mr. Roosevelt wishes it to be generally understood that if any more interviews with him are quoted, in which he is represented as saying anything of the kind about political matters affecting himself, they are not to be credited.

It seems as if a child ought to be able to see that to make a rash statement of that kind with regard to Mr. Hanna, at such a time as the present, would be a piece of foolishness of which a man of any experience in politics would be incapable. President Roosevelt may be a strenuous fighter, but he is not a fool, and he understands quite well the necessity of keeping his personal opinions of reigning politicians to himself. He also understands the folly of spreading the net in the sight of any bird, and if he happened to be antagonistic to Mr. Hanna, or anybody else, he would not be likely to unfold his plan of campaign before using it.

Unfortunately, there are persons who are laboring diligently to create among the people an erroneous impression of Mr. Roosevelt's character. His liking for out-door sport, a liking which hundreds of college men of his generation share, and are the better for it, is represented as a pose; his conviction that a country ought to be prepared for war so long as war is possible is distorted into desire for military glory (as if a man who insisted on making his house burglar-proof were inviting burglars); and his straightforwardness and decision are dubbed impulse (as if the power to act when it is necessary, and act quickly, were not the very backbone of the business talent of this country). He is, it is true, different from any other President within the memory of this generation, because most of them have been figureheads for their party, and, moreover, have not been called upon to solve problems as difficult as those which have confronted Mr. Roosevelt. The main difference between this Administration and other Administrations is that the power is in the White House instead of behind the throne.

But in spite of all this tortuous and ingenious misrepresentation of facts, the country is not likely to suppose that the President is playing pitch and toss with his chances for re-election to the extent that this anecdote would indicate. He is not going to sacrifice any of his principles for the sake of getting the nomination, and he would be very foolish if he did; for the whole platform on which Theodore Roosevelt stands is his reputation for honesty, independence, and ability to see the right thing and do it; and he is not likely to sacrifice one plank of that platform. But to indulge in making gratuitous and tasteless personal remarks for fun, to the detriment of his own interests, is not his style at all. That sort of thing belongs to sovereigns like Charles II, or unique individuals like Tom Reed; not to Americans who believe as thoroughly in organization, public spirit, and loyalty to party as President Roosevelt.

The Duties on Furs.

Innocent Citizens Led Into Wrongdoing by the Dealers.

There has been a stir in New York over a new development in the customs service. It was discovered that valuable furs worth several thousand dollars had been smuggled over the Canadian border, and were now in the possession of persons in New York. On this discovery the customs officials swooped down on these people, in the middle of the recent cold wave, and

confiscated their furs pending the payment of duty.

The owners of the furs say, and their story seems likely to prove true, that they bought the garments in Montreal from dealers who promised to deliver them at their homes, and that the price was supposed to include the duty. The furs were bought, it is said, in the summer, or early autumn, when there would have been no excuse for wearing them on the return journey, and the dealer's offer to save trouble by shipping them to the purchaser's home seemed quite accommodating. It now appears that the furs were sent to New York all right, but smuggled over the border. The owners say that they are willing to pay the duty, since it seems to be the only thing to do, but they do feel that the customs officials ought to have had more tact than to take their furs away from them when the thermometer was hovering around the zero point.

This seems to be one of those cases in which tact in the enforcement of law is really justifiable. There are innumerable instances in which the demand for tactful behavior by the officials is merely a subterfuge to get out of obeying the law at all, but there seems no doubt that the dishonest dealers in Canada were responsible for the violation of law, and that the buyers were innocent victims. The moral is, when you buy furs in Canada, smuggle them yourself.

Use for the Iroquois.

A Practical Test for Fire Apparatus in Chicago.

News comes from Chicago that the Iroquois Theater is to be put to practical use, and if the test proposed is made as it ought to be, this badly constructed building will serve a better purpose in its ruins than it ever would if it had remained undamaged. The authorities intend to install in it model fire apparatus, and set it on fire purposely, to see what will happen. The automatic sprinklers will be in place, so will a real asbestos curtain, skylights, and fire-fighting apparatus. The fire will be started as nearly as possible in the same way in which it started at the time of the disaster, and it will be seen whether proper precautions would have smothered it before it reached dangerous proportions.

It would be a very good thing to keep that Iroquois Theater standing permanently in its present condition, as a reminder of the danger of civic carelessness, and as a theater of experiment. Being, as its builders earnestly assured the public, quite fire-proof, there would be little or no danger of fire started inside its walls spreading to other buildings; in fact, if there were any such danger, it would undoubtedly have been shown at the time of the catastrophe. Theater apparatus could be tested in such a building as it could not possibly be tested elsewhere. How, for instance, could any ordinary test of an asbestos curtain show what it would do in the peculiar drafts and conditions of the stage? It would be impossible to make effective tests of automatic skylights or sprinklers in an ordinary theater, because of the danger of damage; but they could be made perfectly in the ruined theater. However, it is improbable that any such plan will be followed. It would cost money.

Government Salaries.

Are They Larger in Proportion to Work Than the Average Wage?

A stenographer has written to The Times to say that the Government pays larger salaries for less work than any outside business firm. Another stenographer takes the same method of expressing the opinion that the Government pays less than good stenographers can earn outside.

These views, at first sight irreconcilable, are really both correct in a measure. The duties of stenographers are so varied that no fixed rule can be laid down as to the value of their services to the Government and to outside firms. The average stenographer in a business house does not need to be an expert. She—for women usually fill these positions—must know enough shorthand to take down letters as fast as her employer cares to dictate, and many business men are slow in dictation. The vocabulary used in the ordinary business house is so small as to be quickly mastered. Good spelling and some knowledge of English are required, methodical habits and good address are always useful, and not infrequently the stenographer finds herself in the position of a sort of confidential clerk. Her hours are at least eight, and oftener ten or twelve, and her salary may be anywhere from \$10 to \$30 a week, according to years, experience, peculiar value to the firm, and the living expenses of the town. No stenographer in the Government service gets as small a salary as \$10 a week, and few remain as low as \$15, while their hours are never more than seven, and

they are at liberty to make extra money in the evenings if they can.

On the other hand, the genuine expert—the man who can make \$5 a day as a court reporter, or who has the ability and discretion to fill the position of secretary to some Congressman or politician, can seldom be lured into the Government service, and if he is, his salary is less than he could earn outside, though his hours are shorter. If he once gets into the departments, however, he is likely to stay, and permanence is worth something. It all depends on the man and the job.

The trouble with stenographers' salaries is that the woods are full of different shorthand writers, and there are few places for the experts. There are many stenographers working for salaries of \$15 or \$20 a week who can properly be classed as experts. There are doubtless some in the departments who are not worth \$15 a week, because the standard of stenography set in the examinations is not high, and a person can pass without being in any sense an expert, and do the ordinary work of the department well enough. Stenography is not a difficult art. Any bright boy or girl who is a good speller can learn in six months' time the rudiments of the business. The rest is merely practice. The expert is born, not made, but the ordinary employer dictates so slowly that his needs can be met without expert knowledge. Only a few men out of a hundred dictate fast enough to trouble the ordinary shorthand writer. In fact, if it were not for the need of correction of the work, and the aversion some men have to the rattle of a machine, an expert typewriter could take dictation about as well as a shorthand writer, and it would save time.

Street Cleaning.

Philadelphia Solves the Problem With a Hose.

Philadelphia has struck a new solution of the street-cleaning problem. Her streets being blocked up with snow recently, she turned the hose of the fire department on them, and succeeded in clearing some of the busiest streets in a surprisingly short space of time. It is now urged that this method be used all over the city, at the earliest possible moment after a heavy snow fall, so that the snow will not have time to get trodden into ice. Of course, this method would not be effective in a cold climate, for the reason that the water would freeze about as fast as it fell, and the last state of that city would be worse than the first; but it really seems as if it might be made effective in cities far enough south to avoid this difficulty. If rain will clear the streets, as it certainly will, the hose of the fire department, flushing them, ought to do the work even more quickly. It might turn out to be cheaper than snow shovellers, in the case of a sudden heavy snow in mild weather.

Whatever may be the means settled upon for the removal of snow and ice from the streets, it is about time that some way was found to make things endurable. If cities along the northern border can keep their streets passable when they have snow from November to March, Washington ought to be able to take care of the little innocent snow falls that come about twice a year. As it is, the snow lies in heaps in the gutters, forms pools in the street, and makes life a burden for delicately clad women who must alight from street cars in the midst of a mass of slush, while the workaday part of the community runs risks of colds, coughs, rheumatism, and pneumonia.

Corn meal is now used to adulterate sausages. If the corn meal was only combined with the sausage meat while the meat was yet inside the hog, nobody would object.

When President Roosevelt receives those two lions from King Menelik he will be in a position to sympathize with the late Walter Scott, whose friend in New Zealand sent him two emus.

The investigation of the postoffice scandals displeases many people because it is the kind that investigates.

Japan has impressed three Pacific liners for her purposes. If she keeps on she will impress the whole world.

The audience in a New York theater, smelling smoke and suspecting fire, remained in their seats; but, of course, they would have been expected to do that, even if the flames were shooting into their faces, rather than incur the reproach of losing their heads.

Bryan's ultimatum follows hard upon the heels of Cleveland's. It is now up to the rest of the Democratic possibilities to decline the nomination and leave the road clear for the dark horse.

Opinions are divided as to whether it is sauerkraut or politics which has disagreed with Senator Quay.

Mr. Gorman said he was looking for more light, and then Mr. Hearst turned on the electricity.

The only Democratic motto yet evolved this year is "When in doubt, jump on Bryan."

FREE-HAND COMMENT ON MEN AND MANNERS

Clerks Who Want to Work From 8:30 to 4:30 Are Sure of Their Reward.

Oh, he was a Government clerk. Who had lately received a shock. And his eyes were haggard and wan. As they yawned at the office clock.

Yes, his eyes were weary and sad. As he gazed at the office door. The clock said he'd be dead at 4:30. And I am so fresh at 4:30.

Then he whispered the name of Gillett. And his orbs took a savage glint. And the thoughts that arose in his bosom, I can fancy, but cannot print.

But I know that he said at closing. To several Government ladies. "May he shovel coal till 4:30. For a million years in Hades!"

The human mind resembles the deep sea. You never get clear down to the bottom of it that you don't find something queer and unexpected—something hitherto undreamed of. Such a discovery is the attitude of those department clerks who desire to work from 8:30 to 4:30, according to their replies upon The Times' queries. It must be admitted that replies of this nature are not numerically strong, but still they do exist. These men or women who have a joy in their work are almost sure of their reward. If they can secure the right sort of Congressional influence, and if the temple of civil service is not tumbled about their ears like a child's house of cards by some blind Samson, these enthusiastic people will climb as rapidly upward as Jack of bean-stalk fame.

In quite another frame of mind is the clerk who asks:

"How many hours per day do the Congressmen, who stirred up the discussion, work?"

"How many days in each year do they work?"

"Are they confined to their seats every minute during the time the House is in session?"

"What is the difference in the salary of a Congressman and a clerk?"

"Is a Congressman subject to the whims of some petty chief or superior?"

"Does Mr. Gillett or any other member who was instrumental in bringing about this change have to sit in an extra room with six other men 290 days out of the year?"

These ingenious queries, which have a feminine flavor, are founded upon the unfortunate fallacy, that has caused so much of misery in the world, that all men are created free and equal. They have no bearing on the case, and they refuse to answer. "This is a free country. If you think a Congressman has the better of it, go and be a Congressman."

It seems hardly possible that the few thousand dollars needed for keeping the night schools open till June will be denied by the Committee on Appropriations. Economy is rarely practiced when it comes to the education of the nation's youth. The closing down of a few schools or the reduction of a few salaries, already small, or the addition of half an hour or so to the working time of employees, makes more talk and more money in the pockets of the few than the saving of a few hundred dollars. The refusal to pass a \$10,000,000 appropriation. These displays of petty economy may be made anywhere with greater safety than when they affect the public schools. Statesmen assume a great responsibility when they refuse needed money for this purpose. Liberty with reference to any public school proposition is almost without exception the safe and patriotic policy.

That Mayor McClellan is being thought of in some quarters as a possible Democratic candidate for President is seen from the fact of his eligibility for office. He has been on the ground that he was born in Dresden, Germany. His own opinion is that he is "a natural born citizen," and there will be few found willing to deny the claim to one of his name.

One man has at last been found, who, were he equally famous, would share with Mr. Smoot the latter's unpopularity among the women of the country. This is the ex-Reverend Charles A. Alden, till recently secretary of the New York city board of charities. Mr. Alden has been found guilty of embezzling some thousands from the fund deposited with the board for the payment of alimony.

Our novelists have been turning their eyes longingly for some time to our new satellites for plots and local color, and several works of fiction have appeared with plots located in the Philippines, in Porto Rico, and in Hawaii. The results have been discouraging, however, for nothing has as yet been produced that has made a lasting impression on the public. The fault seems to lie rather with the writers than with the material. There is certainly no lack of popular interest in the life in our dependencies, and as for the romantic element, that is by no means lacking. Take for instance the story of the pirate Herman, late of the Cebu jail, now citizen of the seas and the world. What could Robert Louis Stevenson not have done with Mr. Herman and his story? Herman and Johnson, his partner in crime, stole a vessel and started on a piratical cruise. In the fight which resulted in Herman's capture, four constables were killed and Johnson was afterward found dead in the bottom of a boat. There is enough in Herman's life up to date, to make a rattling pirate story, could it be amplified and touched up by the genius of a Russell or a Stevenson.

According to a recent report of the health department of Chicago, the people of that city live twice as long as their grandfathers. This increase of vitality is attributed by the local authorities to the application of modern sanitary methods, but it is not probable that these have anything at all to do with the case. The added years were won by a vigorous and energetic, a punishment for the sins of the city.

FIVE ARMY DIVISIONS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

The new order regarding the five divisions recently created in the army has gone into effect.

The new divisions are the Division of the Southwest, the Division of the Philippines, the Division of the Pacific, the Division of the Atlantic, and the Division of the North.

FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT HANNA NEEDLESS SCARE

Suspicion Against Hanna Was Groundless—Call for National Convention Not Withheld With Sinister Purpose.

The friends and supporters of the President have recently been working themselves into a state of excitement and political perspiration over the failure of Senator Hanna to sit down and draw up the call for the Republican national convention immediately after the national committee which met here on December 12, had swallowed coffee at the banquet which the chairman gave. Thirty days elapsed and no convention call was issued, and the trefel partisans of the President, always suspicious when Senator Hanna sneezes or when he falls to sneeze, began to place various constructions upon his failure to issue the call.

Some with their vivid imaginations figured out that the Ohio Senator was planning to defer the call until after several of the State conventions have been held in order that by some means whatever advantage might inure to the President in the way of instruction of delegates might be defeated. It wasn't quite clear just what the disadvantage to the President would be, but it was feared the Ohio Senator had "something up his sleeve," and they were certain it would not be used to the benefit of the President. The friends of the President want early conventions all over the country with Roosevelt instructed delegates, in order that there may be no eleventh-hour stampede to Hanna or any other candidate who may come out against the President.

To Swing Ohio Delegates.

Others have calculated that Senator Hanna was delaying in order to perfect a plan whereby all of the Ohio delegates to the national convention might be selected by the State convention instead of the Congress conventions, as has long been the custom. In Ohio, as in other States, the practice has been for each Congress district to name two delegates, and for the State convention to select the four delegates at large. In fact, it is the rule of the national committee that this shall be the method followed. Either these friends of the President never read that rule or thought Senator Hanna would ignore it, for they started the report that the Senator would seek to have the State convention in Ohio dictate the selection of the delegates. Senator Foraker, who assumes to be the President's spokesman, especially in Ohio, became much agitated lest his colleague had planned some such move, and he has declared that Senator Hanna will control the State convention, although he cannot control all of the district conventions. The Roosevelt enthusiasts have taken it for granted that Senator Hanna is inimical to the President, despite his repeated declarations to the contrary, and his statement that he is not a candidate for the Republican nomination, and they are constantly on the alert.

Worry Was Useless.

It develops now that their worry has all been without cause. Senator Hanna has broken no precedents in delaying the call for the convention for a month after the meeting of the national committee. The national convention is more than five months away, and there have been instances where the call was not issued until three months prior to the convention. The draft of the call is in the hands of the President, and it is weeks ago, and Senator Hanna is withholding his signature awaiting the report of the committee consisting of Senator McComas, Commissioner Yerkes, and Representative Brownlow, who were appointed to determine the manner of selecting delegates in the District of Columbia, which plan must be included in the call. That report will be submitted within a few days and then the call will be issued.

Another reason which it is said might

MERCHANTS WANT HAY TO RECOGNIZE JIMINEZ

Blockade of the Ports of Santo Domingo Said to Be Working a Hardship.

New York merchants are protesting daily to the State Department against the inconvenience they are suffering as a result of the so-called blockade established in Santo Domingo by the provisional government.

All ports, excepting Santo Domingo City, are said to be controlled by followers of Jimenez. The cruiser Columbia has been sent to Santo Domingo City, where it will assist the Morales government set up in Santo Domingo.

VENEZUELA RECOVERING FROM HER REVOLUTION

Rudolf Dolge, United States consular agent at Caracas, and secretary for the United States at the meeting of the Venezuelan claims commission, arrived in the city last night, and is now at the Ebbitt.

Mr. Dolge said that instead of the naval demonstration made by Germany and England aiding those countries it has injured their trade greatly. Venezuela, was he said, recovering rapidly from the effects of the recent revolution. American interests had been so well guarded, he said, that business with the United States was growing rapidly.

GEN. "JOE" WHEELER DENIES HIS CANDIDACY

Gen. Joseph Wheeler, U. S. A., retired, is at the Raleigh. He announces this morning that he is here simply on private business. When questioned regarding the rumors from Alabama that he intended to stand for re-election to Congress from his old district, he said: "Many of my friends have asked me to do so, but I have refused. I would like to have it announced positively that I have retired from politics permanently."

RAISE OF SALARY DECLINED.

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Jan. 16.—A \$800 increase in salary has been declined by County Commissioner William P. Wood, who averred that \$100 a year was ample compensation for his duties, notwithstanding his salary had lately been fixed at \$1,000.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

IS HERRAN A SOMNAMBULIST?

"I wonder if there is any truth in these stories about somnambulism," was the remark made by Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge just after he opened his mail yesterday morning and found there a copy of a New York magazine containing in a most prominent position an article signed in Dr. Herran's own name and purporting to have been contributed by him. "Now, I am very sure," said Dr. Herran, "that I never wrote that article, and the statement it makes coming from me are as startling to me as they must have been to the public. It would be thoroughly impolitic for me to contribute an article to a magazine at this time, and I don't see how I could come out in a signed statement about Colombia and Panama, when I have never written a magazine article in my life." The objection made by Dr. Herran to the article is not so much the statements it makes concerning the Colombia-Panama trouble as the fact that its publication is not authorized by him. The article is, however, widely commented upon as being a direct statement from Colombia's highest official in this country.

SCOTT TO THE RESCUE.

A "respectable appearing woman" was on the stand in the Police Court to testify to the character and mental status of a young man charged with larceny.

"I do not deem him capable of discriminating between right and wrong," remarked the witness, "and I think he would do anything his aunt would tell him to do."

Assistant District Attorney Mullooney immediately put the question, "Do you mean to say that if you told him to go out and stab some one or steal something he would do it?"

"I think he would," said the witness. At this juncture Judge Scott's commendable rusticity once more asserted itself, and, rallying to the support of the member of the weaker sex, he remarked:

"I don't think there is very great probability of the lady making any such suggestion, Mr. Mullooney," and further the question in that regard was dropped.

SPOILED THE DEFENSE.

In the Police Court a negro was charged with larceny of seven quarts of whisky. His defense was a good one, an alibi, although the Government produced a number of witnesses against him. After all of the testimony was taken, counsel for the defense, armed with law books and setting himself for a long speech, began to argue the case to Judge Scott.

The court forthwith remarked: "Excuse me for interrupting, but if you don't object I'll dismiss the case."

BROTHER OF JUDGE WRIGHT.

W. S. Wright, manager of the Wheeling and Elm Grove Railroad Company, who a few days ago attacked Attorney Nelson C. Hubbard at Wheeling, W. Va., is a brother of Justice Wright of the District Supreme Court, and not his son, as was reported. In his argument to the jury in a case on trial at the time, Attorney Hubbard intimated that Mr. Wright did not testify to the truth, in consequence of the insinuation made by the attorney, the assault upon him was not a surprise to the friends of Mr. Wright.

HOW TO PRONOUNCE "TO."

"What's the correct way to pronounce 'to'?" asked a facetious broker just before the opening of the Washington Stock Exchange today.

"That's a cinch," replied a wise member. "Pronounce it the way you spell it."

"Well, how do you pronounce 'to-o'?" "Same way—too."

"How do you pronounce 'two'?" "Same way—two."

"Now how do you pronounce the second day in the week?"

"Tuesday, of course," said Mr. Parls.

"None," said the facetious one.

"Must be Tuesday then," remarked Mr. Hibbs.

"None,"

"How, then, Chewsdays?" asked Mr. Heiston.

"None."

"Guess it's Tuesday," interpolated Mr. Flather.

"None—Monday," said he of the facetious turn.

A METEORIC CAREER.

David E. Thompson, the United States minister to Brazil, who is now on his way from Rio Janeiro to New York, and who will visit Washington in a few days, is a successful American whose career rivals stories told in books about the rapid rise of young men who are industrious and temperate.

From railroad brakeman to United States minister in a republic of the importance of Brazil, the career of the holder in gas companies and street railways in the Nebraska capital is a long jump, but Mr. Thompson is not satisfied. Before he was appointed to Brazil he was defeated for the United States Senate, and Senators Edmund and Dietrich were chosen by the Nebraska Legislature. The Senate is the goal toward which Mr. Thompson is working, and persons familiar with the politics of Nebraska believe he is returning to the United States at this time to find out what his chances are for succeeding Senator Dietrich, whose term will expire in 1906.

MRS. PLATT RECOVERS BAG.

Senator Thomas C. Platt, accompanied by Mrs. Platt, Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Platt's sister, and Miss Knowles, who are spending a few weeks at Alton, journeyed to Augusta on a trolley car Wednesday.

When Mrs. Platt arrived at the Hampton Terrace Hotel, in Augusta, where the party lunched, she discovered the loss of a handbag. Returning immediately to Augusta, Mrs. Platt visited the office of the trolley company and reported her loss.

Shortly after Mrs. Platt had left the railroad office a conductor entered and reported as follows:

"Found between seats of car one lady's handsome leather gold-mounted handbag, containing about \$12 in cash, a lady's small watch, several eyebrow pencils, a powder puff and box and several small articles incident to a lady's toilet."

The bag was immediately returned to Mrs. Platt, who appeared much worried when told that it had been opened, but was nevertheless relieved to recover it.

GEORGE VAN DUZER SAW PRESIDENT LINCOLN SHOT

Former Master's Mate in Navy Dead in New York City.

George Van Duzer, a master's mate in the Union Navy, in the civil war, died on Tuesday in St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. He was born in New York sixty-five years ago and as a young man made a long trip on a clipper ship.

Most of his service in the war was on blockade duty on the coast of North Carolina. He was one of the last men to go by to the good-bye to Lee's army when the latter started on his trip to blow up the Confederate ironclad ram Albatross.

Mr. Van Duzer was in Ford's Theater when President Lincoln was assassinated, and J. Wilkes Booth sat in a balcony seat almost directly behind him until he went to the President's box.

Mr. Van Duzer was one of the three men who got a piece of the blood-stained collar that was removed from Mr. Lincoln's neck after he was shot. Some years ago Mr. Van Duzer gave his piece to the Masonic Temple in New York. He was a man of means and since the war he had devoted himself to mechanics.

GUATEMALA APPROVES NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL

Guatemala has approved the bill providing for the construction of the Northern Railway in that country, an enterprise in which many Americans are interested.

United States Minister Combs has informed the State Department of Guatemala's action.